

REMARKS

At the time the Official Action was mailed, claims 14-16 and 22-33 were pending in the present application. In the Official Action, the Examiner allowed claims 14-16, objected to claims 23-26, 32 and 33 and rejected claims 22 and 27-31. In view of the allowable subject matter, Applicants have chosen to place the application in condition for allowance. However, it should be noted that Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejections. By the present response, claims 22, 26, 27 and 33 have been amended, new claims 34 and 35 have been added, and claims 25 and 32 have been canceled. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowance of claims 14-16 and respectfully request reconsideration of the remaining claims, as amended.

Specifically, independent claim 22 has been amended to include the subject matter previously recited in allowable claim 25. Accordingly, claim 25 has been canceled. Further, claim 26 has been amended to recite proper dependency based on the cancellation of claim 25.

Independent claim 27 has been amended to include the subject matter previously recited in allowable claim 32. Accordingly, claim 32 has been canceled. Further, claim 33 has been amended to recite proper dependency based on the cancellation of claim 32.

Further, new claims 34 and 35 have been added. The new claims simply provide alternate combinations of allowable subject matter. Specifically, new independent claim 34 includes the subject matter originally recited in claims 22 and 23. New independent claim 35 includes the subject matter originally recited in claims 22 and 24. As indicated by the Examiner, the recited combinations of new claims 34 and 35 should be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of claims 14-16, 22-24, 26-31 and 33-35. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

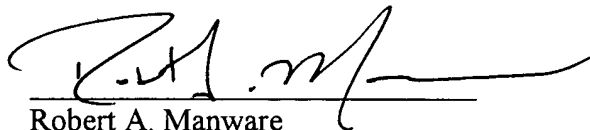
General Authorization for Fee Payment and Extensions of Time

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicants hereby provide a general authorization to treat this and any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefor. Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge the appropriate fee for any extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-3092; Order No. MICS:0056-1/FLE.

Further, Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge the appropriate fee of \$400 for the two additional independent claims added by this response/amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-3092; Order No. MICS:0056-1/FLE.

Respectfully submitted,

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